

Dear Members of the Appropriation Committee,

My name is James Root and I live in Danbury. I am writing to urge you to reconsider the cuts being made to the Community Investment Act and the Council on Environmental Quality.

The Community Investment Act, targeted for a 50% cut in the governor's budget, has been a resounding success. It has been empirically proven as an outstanding contributor to local economies with a minimum of fiscal disruption-since it is fee based. It has been a big help here in Danbury. Why limit this proven, great investment for the state. Frankly, it is like throwing money away.

The Council on Environmental Quality has also been a great fiscal deal. Its insights have probably saved many millions in the various state environmental agencies. As with the CIA, this seems a narrow minded efficiency-proposed in haste because of the budget shortfall.

Please reconsider the cuts to the programs. At full strength, over time, they improve the fiscal situation. Succumbing to the temptation of cutting them will, conversely, just exacerbate the state fiscal situation in the long run.